SENATE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

LANSING, MICHIGAN

For Immediate Release Sen. Mark Schauer Sen. Hansen Clarke July 27, 2005 517/373-2426 517/373-7346

SENATE DEMS: PULL GRAND THEFT AUTO

Website, Petition Drive Launched

LANSING—Michigan Senate Democrats are calling upon the manufacturer of *Grand Theft Auto: San* Andreas to immediately recall their video game and for Michigan retailers to pull all existing inventory off the shelf. Democrats say that is the only appropriate response to the discovery that the game includes hidden sex scenes that have caused the Entertainment Software Rating Board to change the game's rating from "Mature" to "Adult Only."

"Corporations are increasingly behaving like they don't have to play by the same rules as the rest of us," said Sen. Hansen Clarke (D-Detroit). "We have every right to expect any industry targeting our youth to behave ethically and not market products that harm our families and communities."

Senate Democrats criticized House Republicans for sitting on child protection legislation intended to restrict children's access to adult-themed video games. In response, Democrats are launching a new website, www.protectmichiganschildren.com, designed to build public support for their legislation. The website will include a petition drive calling for House action on the video game bills.

"Such unethical and irresponsible conduct from the company that produced the top selling video game of last year demonstrates the industry's unwillingness and inability to effectively police itself," said Sen. Mark Schauer (D-Battle Creek). "Governor Granholm has called upon the Michigan House to act on the child protection legislation before the end of the summer recess. We see no such movement from the House."

Governor Granholm listed the child protection bills as one of several legislative matters she would like to see resolved before the end of the summer recess. To date, House Republicans have not scheduled the bills for a hearing.